

TOWN OF  
FALMOUTH, MA

IMPRESSIONS OF  
VISIT TO NORFOLK  
ISLAND

2006.044.004

START

IMPRESSIONS OF NORFOLK ISLAND  
A. LAWRENCE 2006.044.004

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*Imp of Norfolk Island*

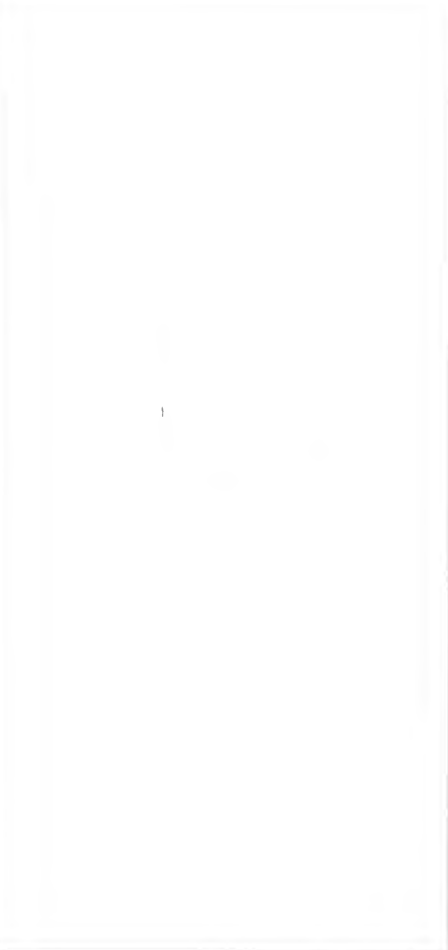
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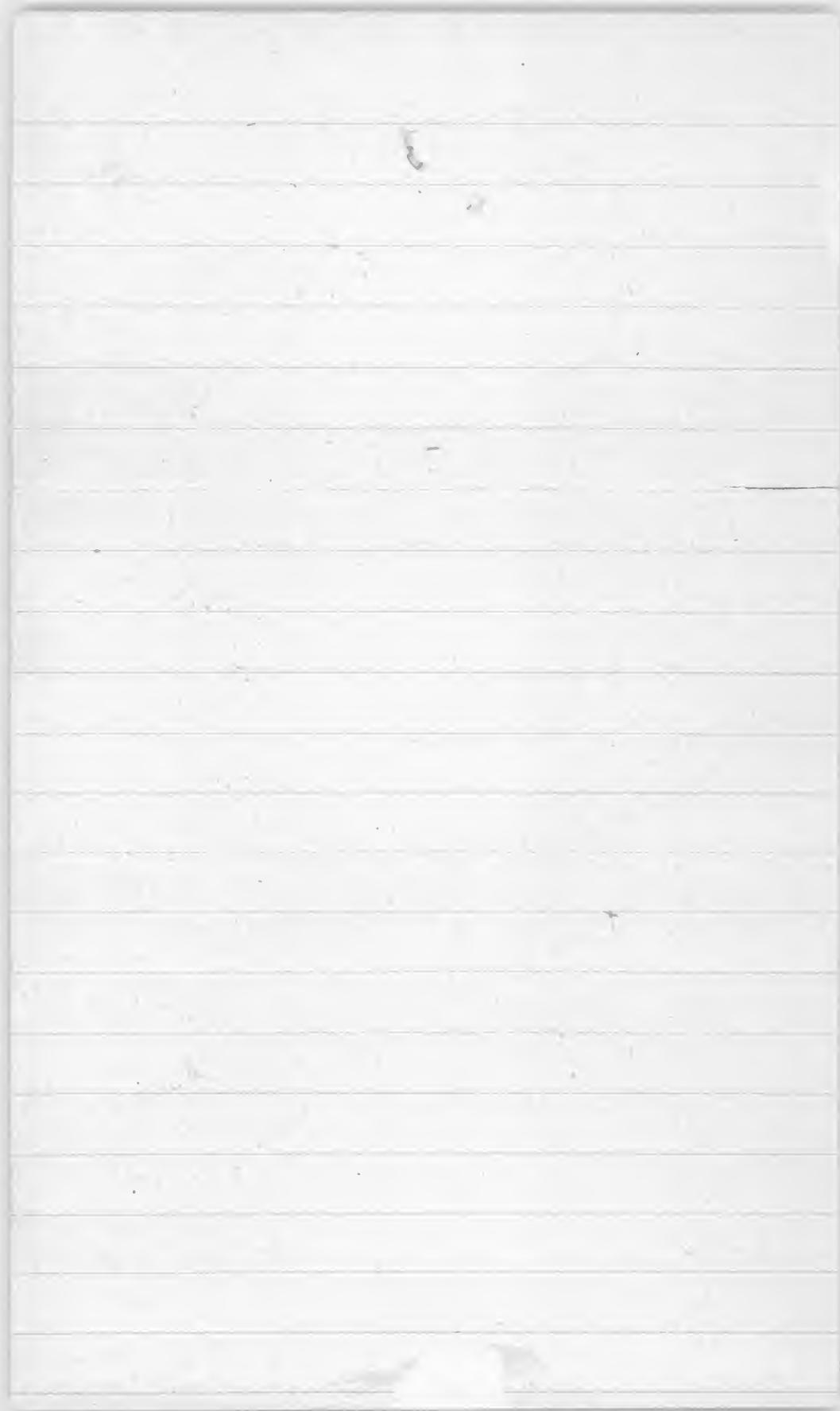


In the South Pacific  
ocean, latitude 29 degrees  
South, longitude 169  
degrees East; and about  
1500 miles from New  
Zealand, the nearest other  
land, lies a small  
island known as  
Norfolk Island. Previous  
to the Crimean war,  
it was used by Great  
Britain for a penal colony.  
During the occupation  
of the island by the  
convicts, splendid roads  
were made, substantial  
houses built; and many  
other works were finished



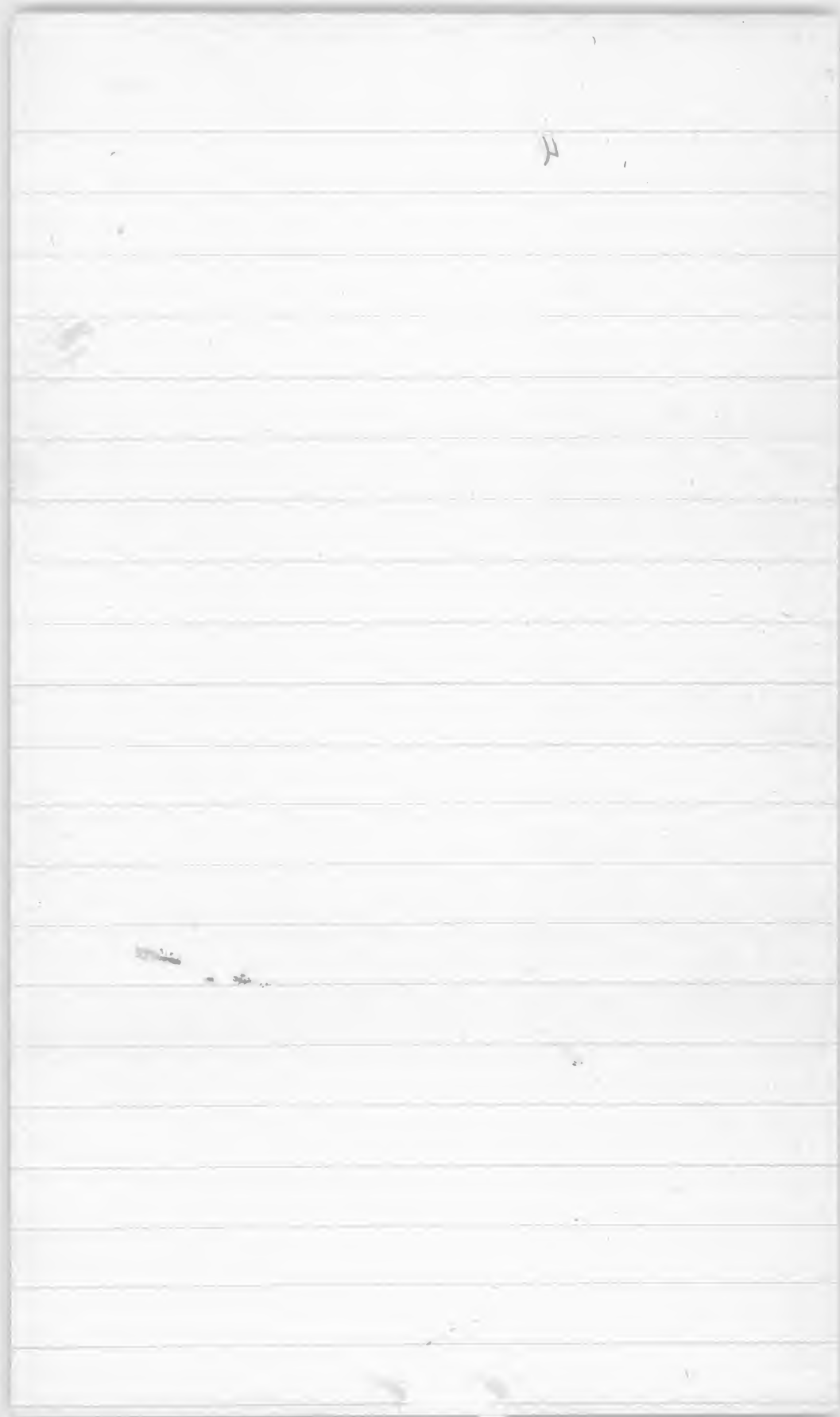
by convict labor, and  
at the time of the break-  
ing out of the war, the  
~~island~~ was in first rate  
condition for the use  
of whoever might live  
there. At this time the  
British government re-  
leased the prisoners on  
the condition that they  
enlist in the British  
army to fight in the  
Crimea. Accordingly the  
island was left without  
inhabitants. About this  
time the British government  
having learned that Pit-  
cairne Island had be-



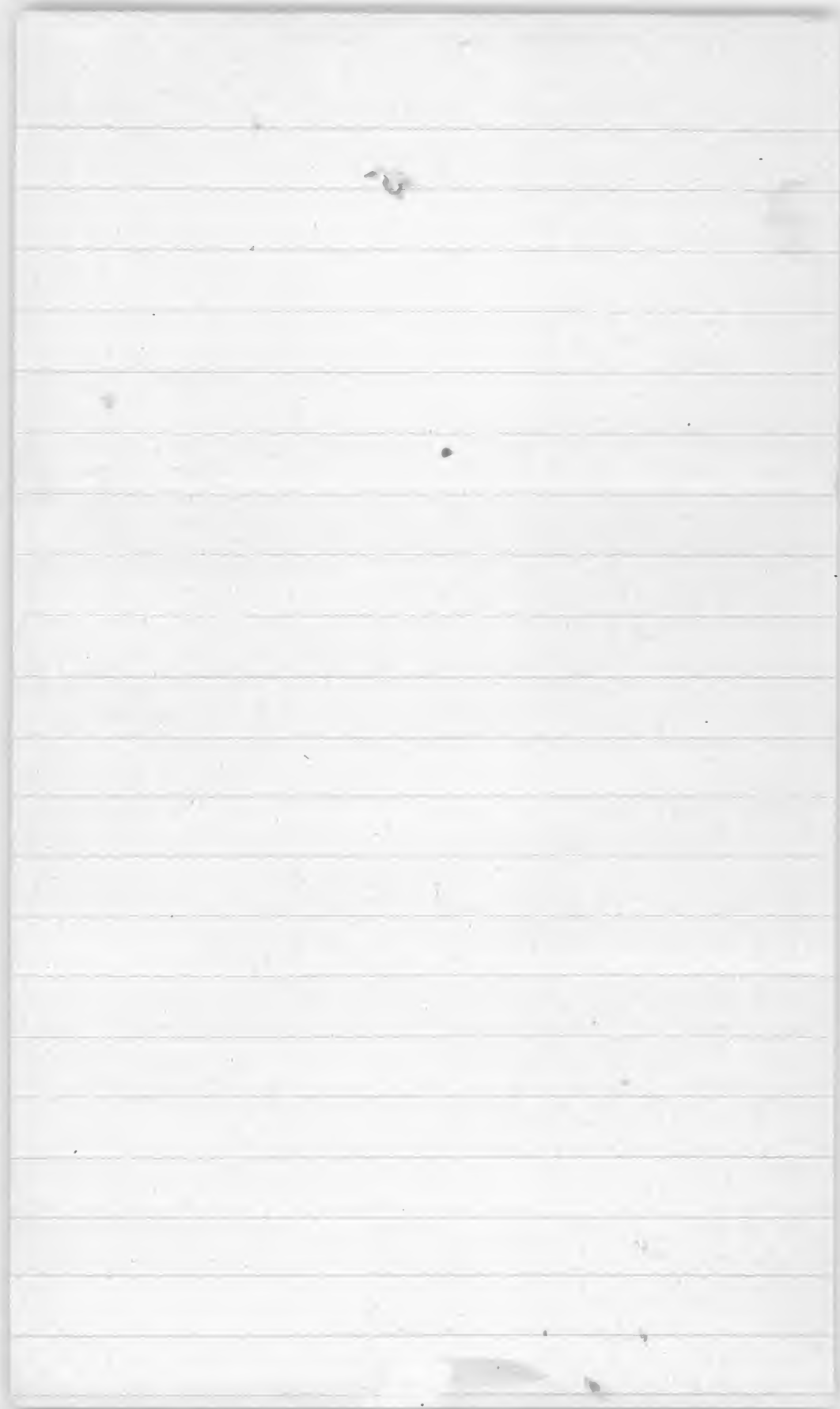


come over populated by  
the descendants of the  
sailors of the British  
brig Bounty. offered to  
transport them to  
Norfolk Island free of  
charge. Many of them  
accepted the offer, and  
they or their descendants  
live there to this day.

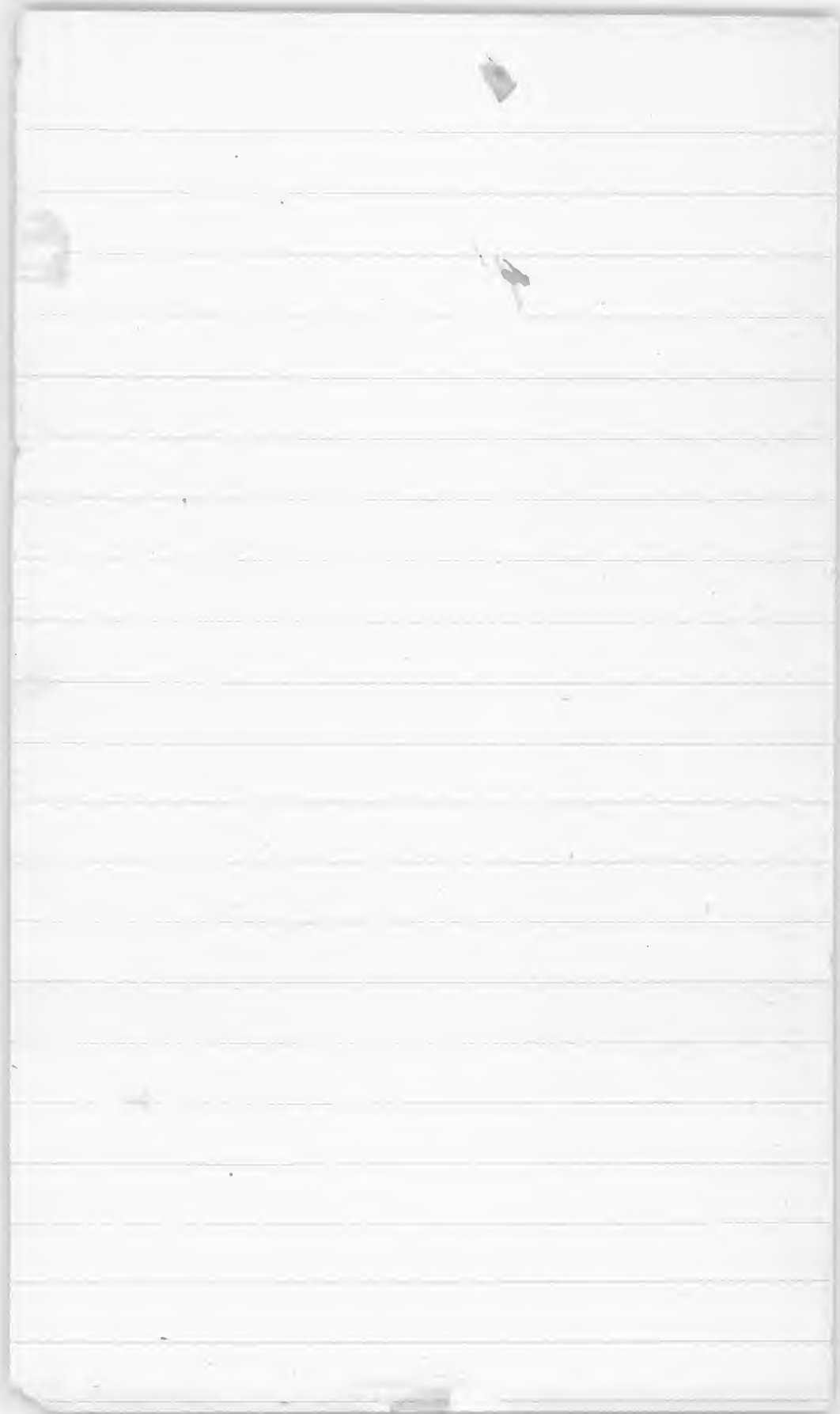
Norfolk Island became  
a favorite recruiting place  
for the whalers cruising  
in those waters, and there  
the writer was born in  
December 1857. In  
1886 and the two following  
years. I had the pleasure



of visiting my birth-  
place. Four or five  
times, and although I  
was not permitted to  
make any long visits  
ashore, yet I saw con-  
siderable of the island  
and its people. The  
island is small, only  
about seven miles wide  
and twelve long, the  
climate is very ~~even~~ and  
agreeable, the situation  
being such that extremes of  
heat or cold are unknown.  
It is well wooded and  
fertile, and very beauti-  
ful to look upon.

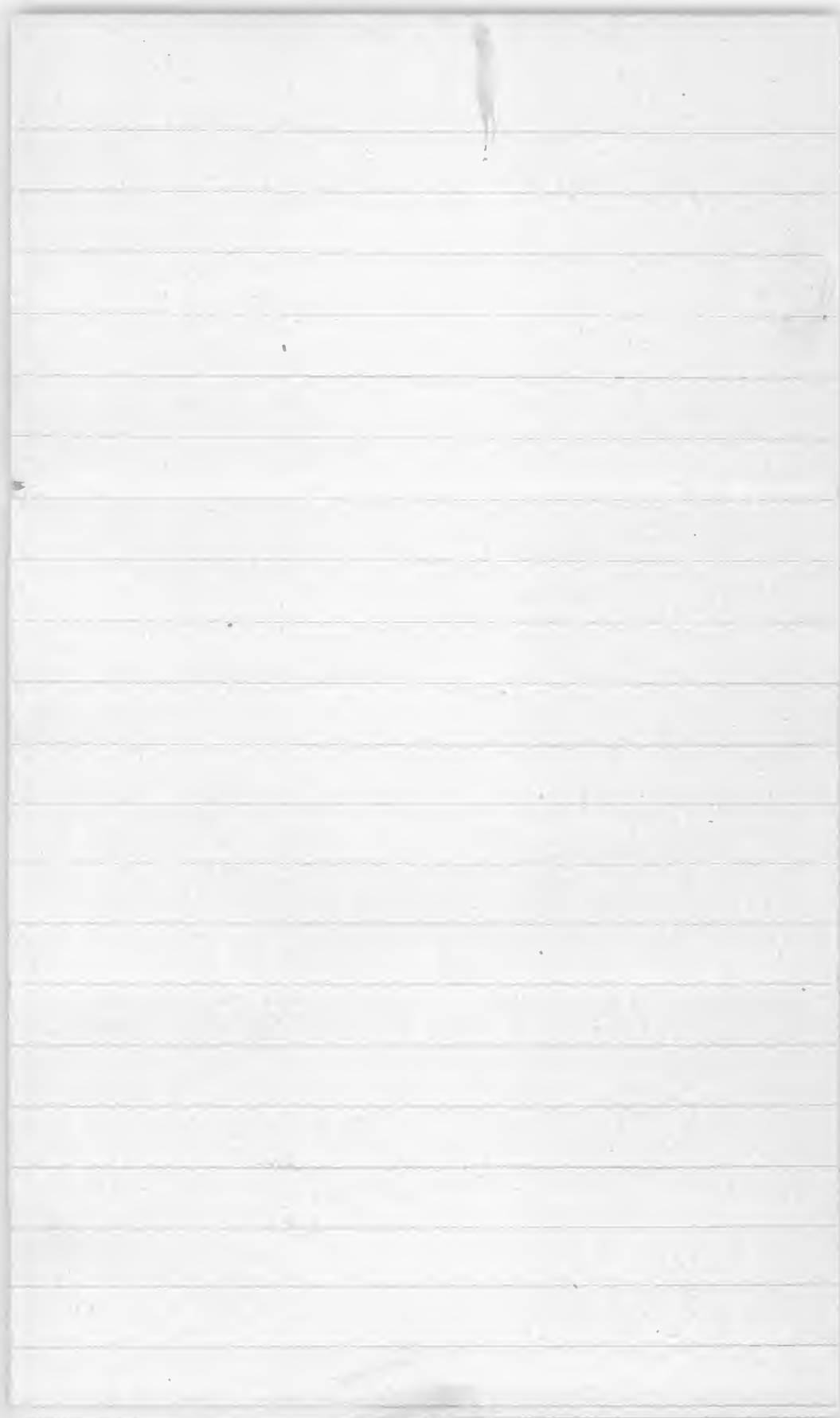


from the sea especially  
to the eyes of the sailors  
who many have not seen  
land before for six months.  
The people live in a very  
simple style, as of necessity  
they must. Being so  
far removed from the  
rest of the world. For  
them the arrival of a  
whaleship, steamer or the  
mission schooner Southern  
Cross is a great event.  
They are very hospit-  
able, and welcome eagerly  
any visitors to the  
Vieland. I found many  
there who remembered

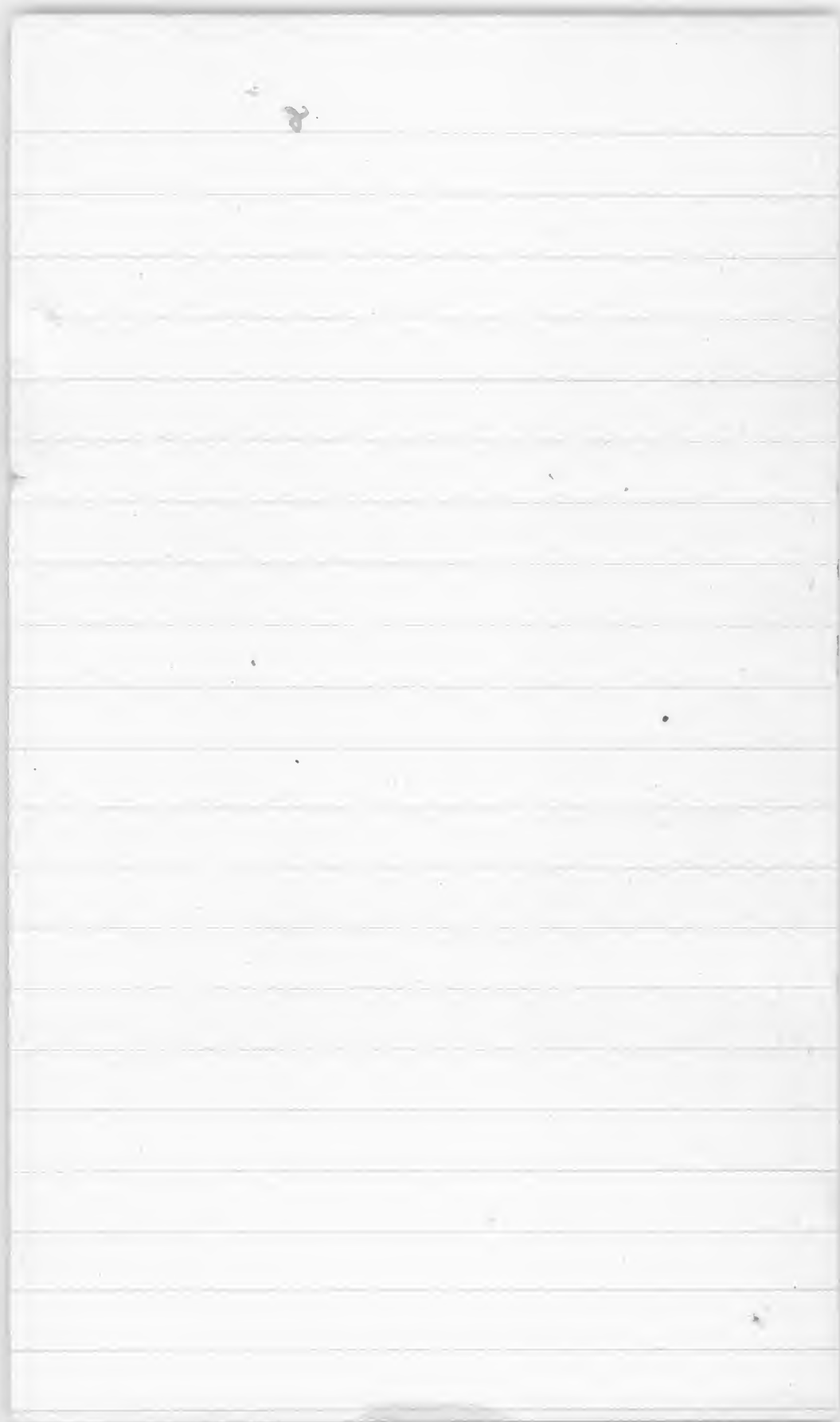


my father and mother  
and they were all desir-  
ous to entertain me  
when I could be on  
shore. They are a very  
religious people, and  
prior to the time of  
my first visit, there  
had been but one church,  
that being the English  
Church. About that time  
there arrived on the isl-  
and, an evangelist, who  
it was said was of the  
Second Advent faith.  
many of the islanders were  
attracted to him, and  
they formed a separate





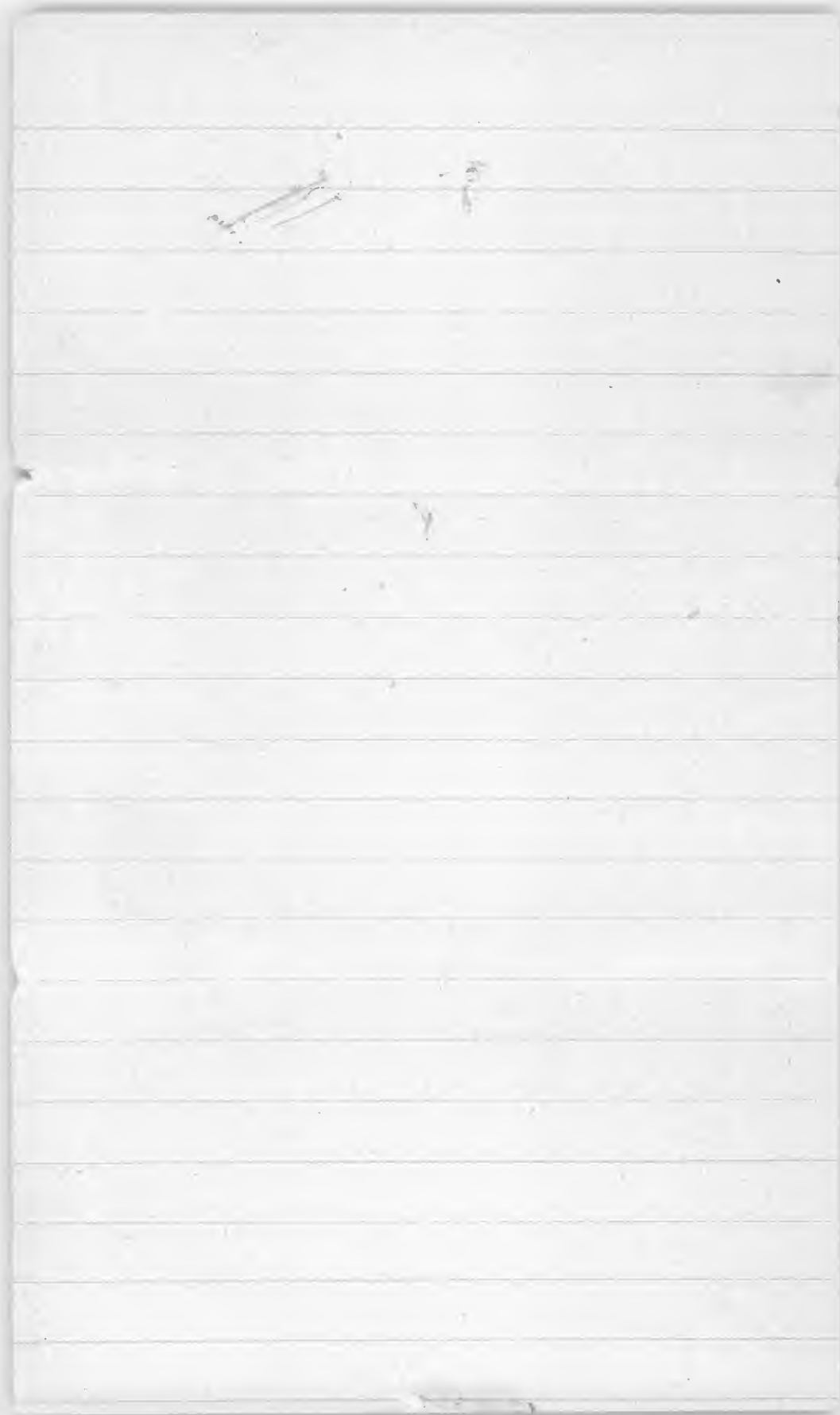
religious society, thereby  
causing much trouble  
and dissension among  
themselves. There is main-  
tained on the island  
a mission school con-  
nected with the Melane-  
sian Missions, at which  
they are attempting to  
educate some of the  
natives of the New Hebrides  
Islands with the view to  
sending them as mission-  
aries and teachers among  
their own people, but I  
believe with poor success.  
Connected with the mission  
is a vessel named the



8  
Southern Cross, that makes  
regular trips between  
New Zealand and the  
New Hebrides islands,  
touching at Norfolk  
Island each trip.

On my last visit to  
the island, in September  
1888 I spent two days  
on shore, the guest of  
friends who had  
known my father and  
mother more than thirty  
years before.

The islanders were  
mourning the decline of  
the whaling industry,  
and the fact that



9-  
one ship was the last  
that they expected to see  
for a long time.  
So we took leave of  
them, probably never  
to meet again.

Augustus Lawrence  
Falmouth Feb 23<sup>d</sup>  
1907



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